

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS

In the Matter of: Implementation of Section 505 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Scrambling of Sexually Explicit Adult Video Programming

Today, as we must, we take steps to conform our rules to the parameters established in a 5-4 decision of the Supreme Court. Nevertheless, that the Court found the statute overly broad does not obviate our responsibility to protect children from indecent and obscene programming.

Right now, as the Court's minority pointed out, the alternatives available to parents are woefully inadequate. It is incumbent upon us to take whatever steps we can, consistent with the First Amendment, to protect our children from sexually explicit programming in their homes.

I urge the Commission to commence a proceeding to determine how, consistent with the objectives of Congress as well as the decision of the Supreme Court, we can protect children from being exposed to sexually explicit programming without their parents' knowledge.